

GENERAL

1. Opposition to protest on East German militarization--US Embassy London has learned that General Robertson, UK High Commissioner for Germany, is opposed to a formal Western protest to the USSR regarding the militarization of police units in East Germany. (The Department of State informed the French and British on 24 March 1950 of its intent to object to this militarization and asked the British and French to consider joining the US in the protest.) Robertson believes that while such a protest would have a favorable propaganda effect in the US, the UK, and France, the release of figures on the number and equipment of the Soviet zone police would adversely affect the morale of Germans in West Germany and western Berlin. The Embassy also transmits the opinion of Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick, who is scheduled to succeed Robertson as UK High Commissioner for Germany, that the effectiveness of the proposed protest for propaganda purposes has been diminished by reports carried in German newspapers revealing the possibility of the protest and giving the Western estimate of the size and equipment of the Soviet zone police. The Embassy reports that Robertson's recommendation opposing the proposed protest has already been submitted to UK Foreign Secretary Bevin and expresses the opinion that the Secretary is not likely to override the High Commissioner in this matter.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes: (a) the revelation of the size and equipment of the East German police will have no adverse effect on the morale of Germans in West Germany and western Berlin; and (b) the prospects for beneficial propaganda effects of the protest have been reduced by the delay so far and by the leak to the German press.)

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